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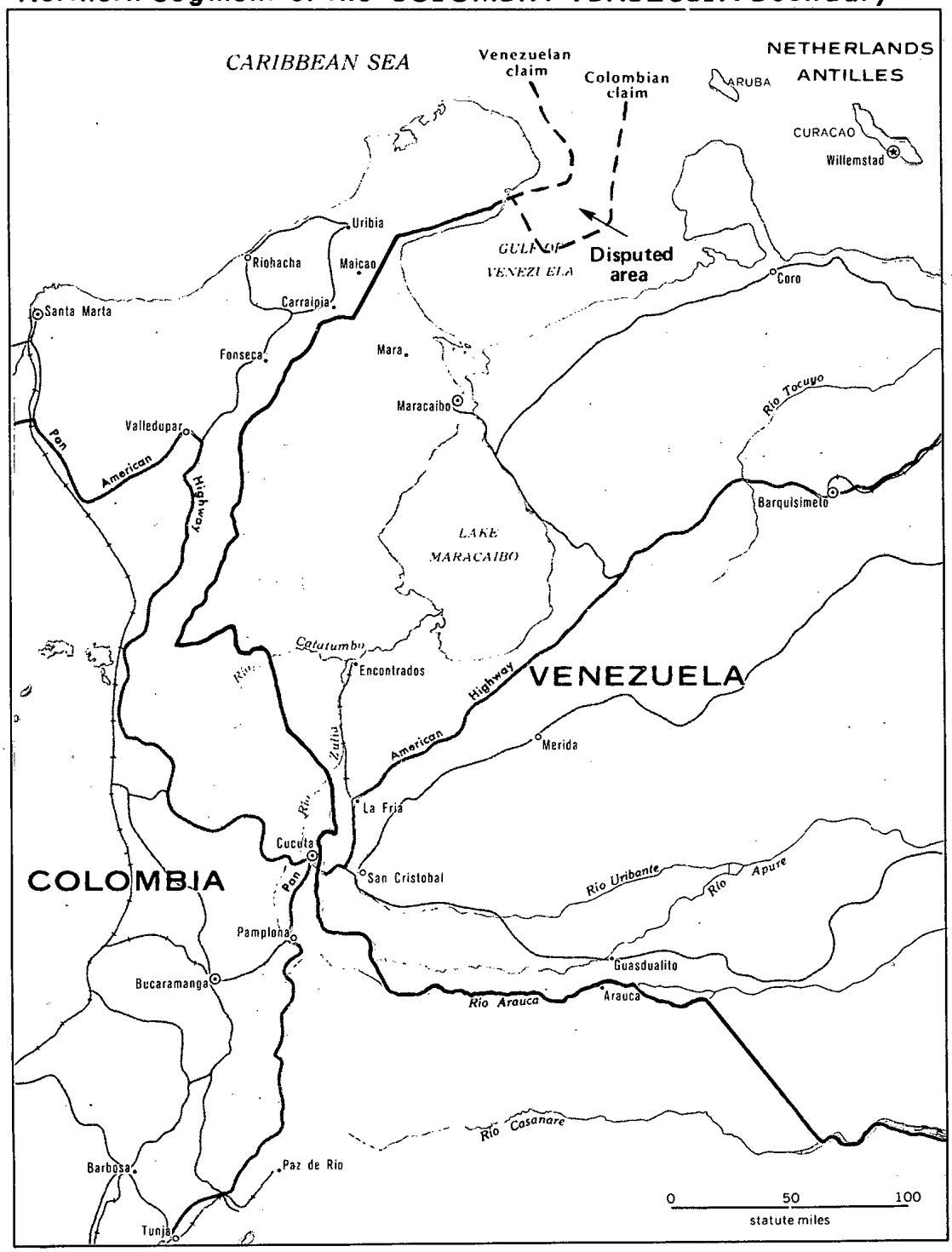
SECRET

Col/Venezuela

## Northern Segment of the COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA Boundary

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SOUTH KOREA - JAPAN: President Pak Chong-hui will make his first state visit to Japan this fall in a personal effort to strengthen Tokyo's commitment to Seoul.

The South Korean leader will seek assurances from the Japanese that they will not expand their contacts with Pyongyang rapidly in a way that would adversely affect South Korean interests. Seoul is concerned about a possible unfavorable shift in Japanese orientation following the Tanaka visit to China. Additional economic assistance to help service Seoul's mounting foreign debt repayments is also high on Pak's list of priorities. Tokyo recently pledged $170 million to Seoul--considerably less than the South Koreans need and hope to obtain.

The visit will be an opportunity for the Japanese to demonstrate the importance they attach to their relations with Seoul, and Tokyo probably will seal it with promises of additional economic assistance. The Tanaka government, however, is likely to avoid a commitment to limit the extent of its economic and perhaps political dealings with Pyongyang, although the Japanese probably hope that the visit will help allay South Korean concerns. [redacted] 25X1

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VENEZUELA-COLOMBIA: Talks will resume in Rome on 4 October on the boundary dispute in the oil-rich Gulf of Venezuela.

The major stumbling block is the definition of the territorial sea and continental shelf boundaries. Caracas maintains the entire gulf is its own inland water, and that the boundary line should be a projection of the land border. Bogota takes the position that the boundary should be drawn into the gulf at a right angle to the northern shore. Both sides believe that the seabed in the disputed area contains substantial oil deposits.

Other irritants on the agenda include the illegal immigration of hundreds of thousands of Colombians whom Venezuela considers a potential fifth column, and substantial contraband operations along the border.

One of the Venezuelan negotiators told a US Embassy official recently that Caracas views this session as crucial because failure now would delay agreement for years because of the coming elections in both countries. During previous sessions, both sides held rigidly to their positions and chances of a settlement this time appear slight.

President Caldera is under heavy pressure from nationalist and military groups to maintain a hard line. A concerted media campaign reportedly will be launched soon to head off any agreement that would give up any of Venezuela's territory or its potential petroleum resources. In this pre-election period, it will be extremely difficult for Caldera to soften Venezuela's position to the extent necessary for agreement with Colombia and, at the same time, retain the military support on which his government depends.

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